



19 February 1985 *file 1.4.9*

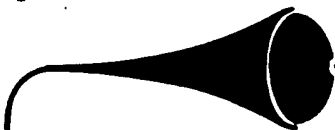
FOR: SECOM Members

FROM: Chairman, SECOM

Attached is a copy of a letter
received here. It is forwarded for
your information.



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SASA

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February 11, 1985

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Chairman, DCI Security Committee
Via Ames ISC, Rm. 1225 Ames Building
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bob:

I am hastening to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4 February 1985.

I fear that for some reason, perhaps entirely my fault, the SASA proposal has been misunderstood. It was never intended that SASA become involved in any classified aspect of the personnel security clearance program.

Originally, as discussed in our meeting of 11 October we had planned to launch into our study based on encouragement previously and otherwise received. Deferring to the view expressed by you at our meeting, we revised our approach which I described in my letter of 20 November 1984, namely to ask our industry members "as to whether or not they think a SASA program would be helpful." As of 24 January 1985, I dispatched to our members a copy of the letter which was originally enclosed with my letter to you of 20 November 1984.

Your letter of 4 February 1985, suggests "that SASA might wish to reassess the desirability of the proposal". Considering the fact that our letter of 24 January asks our members only to advise us if they "are interested in having SASA undertake a program focused on the resolution of personnel security clearance problems" and that the letter is now in the hands of our members, it would be somewhat awkward for all concerned to retreat at this point. May I respectfully

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suggest that we await the responses to our basic query before we decide the next step.

We may indeed confirm your belief that matters are well in hand and that there is no need for the type of service offered by SASA. Nothing would please us more than to be able to present to you the results of our survey (on a non-attribution basis) confirming that the situation is as you have described it. On the other hand, if contrary views should emerge you would surely wish to be informed. We would intend to do that.

Bob, we certainly do not wish to engage on this matter in any adversarial manner. If there are any prospects whatsoever of performing a useful service to industry and government, they may only be realized with the cooperation and support of you and the members of your committee whose judgments and authorities we deeply respect.

Please be assured that we continue to be mindful of your concerns and will undertake no action which might have adverse security implications.

Kindest personal regards,



John E. Morrison, Jr.
Major General USAF (Ret.)
Executive Vice President

JEM/cga

Bob, it occurs to me that I should also add that SASA now intended to maintain individual cases but only generic problems.